Trains linking Delhi and Mangalore

601. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the heavy traffic and demand from the public, the number of trains linking Delhi and Mangalore are few;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce a few more super-fast trains on this section; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) At present 2431/2432 Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani, 2617/2618 Nizamuddin-Ernakulam Express and 6687/6688 Jammu Tawi-Mangalore (weekly) trains are serving Delhi-Mangalore sector.

(c) and (d) Introduction of additional trains between Delhi and Mangalore is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Use of plastic tumbler, cups and carry bags

†602. SHRI BALAWANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of plastic tumbler, cups and carry bags used by vendors has been banned in the trains;

(b) if so, whether despite that they are being used at every railway station and pantry-car openly;

(c) whether any provision exists to take action against such vendors; and

(d) if so, the number of vendors against whom action has been taken?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Zonal Railways, Konkan Railway Corporation Limited and Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited have been instructed that to prevent environment pollution, no plastic cups are to be used in railway premises and these should be replaced with *Kulhars*.

(b) to (d) Action against 3 licensees on Central Railway and 33 lincensees on Southern Railway has been taken up for using plastic cups.

Gauge conversion and railway station upgradation in Assam

603. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the upto date progress of the gauge conversion of Fakiragram to Dhubri rail line under the NJP-Alipurduar-New Bongaigaon sector; and

(b) the progress of upgradation of Kokrajhar Railway station into Model Station in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) On Fakiragram-Dhubri section, gauge conversion of Fakiragram-Sapathgram has been taken up where bridge works are in progress. Earthwork and bridge works have also been taken up between Golakganj and Gauripur.

In connection with Kokrajhar model station, the works of retiring room, waiting room, enquiry and computer based announcement and water coolers have been completed. The works of provision of parking/ circulating area, public phones, signages and modular catering stalls have also been sanctioned.

Import of coaches

†604. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coaches/bogies are imported to meet the domestic demands in the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.